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Transcript of Debriefing of Students who Attended the Survival,  
Escape and Evasion School, Camp Carson, Colorado, [REDACTED]

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This meeting has been called to effect an informal briefing of the five characters who attended the two weeks course of Survival, Escape and Evasion, so called, at Camp Carson, Colorado.

By way of background I think that it would be well for me to bring all of you up to date on the situation out there and let you know a little bit of the background of the project. Briefly the setup is this. The Strategic Air Command of the Air Force has set up a Survival, Escape and Evasion school at Camp Carson, Colorado to provide training on those subjects to members of combat aircrews of Strategic Air Command. Due to this Agency's cooperation and assistance in this Air Force project we are authorized to enter some of our personnel and students in these courses. The course is a two weeks affair and they will run every three weeks; in other words, there's a one week break between courses. The first group that we sent out there entered the first real class that has been run through the school. Prior to this class that they attended a group of some one hundred and fifty or two hundred Air Force personnel were run through, all of whom had escaped, evaded, or both, during the war. However, that first course was in the nature of a dry run, more or less, and the course that our people attended was really the first run for record. Theoretically the Air Force personnel before they go out to receive the training are given a 36-hour period

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of training at squadron level at their home stations. The unit at Carson, the 3904th Training Squadron, has provided the various Strategic Air Command units with lecture material, and instructional data with which to conduct this initial thirty-six hours instruction. We have that same material here and we conducted a boiled-down version of this pre-training instruction that was given to the Air Force people. Based on my ideas of what the course was to consist of when they got out there, we supplemented to some extent the 36-hour training and we compressed in other ways. For example, in the five days of briefing and instruction that these people got we gave them some ten or twelve hours of code practice, the supposition being that all the Air Force students who reported out there were supposed to have reached a proficiency in sending and receiving Morse Code at five words per minute. I think you will find out later when the five ex-students have a chance to hold forth that our communications training was superfluous and unnecessary. Similarly we had five two-hour periods of physical conditioning to get our sedentary people a little bit prepared for the rugged outdoor life. Well, they found when they got out there that they were in far better shape, not only as a result of the ten hours they got here but they were in better shape in general than those Air Force people who apparently hadn't had any of that type of activity. I don't want to monopolize the platform any more than I have to and I'd like next to turn the podium over to each of these five gentlemen who in turn will give you briefly and informally his reactions and ideas of the course. At the conclusion of each presentation I think that 10

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would be proper for any of you to ask as many questions on any phase of this thing as you would like to.

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Now, before I turn over to [REDACTED] who will lead off, are there any questions on the general background of this proposition? Apparently not, and Larry, will you take on from here. This is [REDACTED] who is one of our people in training.

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[REDACTED]  
First of all can you hear me in the back of the room or shall I speak a little bit louder? I want to start off with the cover problem because I think that's something that will be stressed quite a bit as the other fellows come up to talk to you. One of the biggest problems that we did have was the cover situation, however. As far as instruction itself was concerned, as [REDACTED] said, the first week before we left here we had a solid week of getting back into physical condition and briefly going over the basic instructions which we were to later on have at Carson and these ten hours of physical training which we had was really worth while because after we got out to Carson we were issued new combat boots and had to break them in. None of the five of us suffered at all from foot trouble. We were all surprised and delighted about it and it was really worth while.

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The course itself was a very good course, I thought. All of us here had, of course, previous military service and some of us had considerable field experience so we didn't gain too much as far as actual personal benefit was concerned but we were in a good position to evaluate the course. The course was designed for Air Forces and those chaps who I assumed had very little ground experience or previous basic training of

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any sort on how to get around on the ground. It brought them down out of the clouds, and gave them a chance to walk around the ground and start learning. For that reason I thought it was a very good course. People who have had previous Infantry training or basic Army training of any sort would have a chance to get down on the ground and get around. I think they might start off a little further along than the Air Force did, however.

The first three or four days were more or less conditioning for the men that got out there. We had really had a weeks previous training and the other boys who got there had had no previous training at all. They had received no physical conditioning and no radio training. There was to be a weeks basic instruction but that hadn't been covered for this particular group of fellows and the first two or three days were spent trying to get them into condition and showing them training films on land navigation, taking them on walks around the area and so on such as that. The instructors were very good; sergeant instructors, officers, and civilians. Each crew of students had about fifteen men in it and there were with our particular group three instructors and one sergeant who was to become an instructor with the next course. We did have a good group of field men who knew their way around and you could really learn a great deal from them just be batting the breeze. You could get around the campfire or something like that and talk to the fellows; we learned more that way than from the actual lectures that were given during the daytime.

After the first four days in Camp we went up to the Base Camp in the mountains in the Saylor Park area and we stayed there about five days

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I think. At Saylor Park we pitched camp using a half of a parachute. Each fellow had a half a parachute and we could pitch any sort of tent that we wanted to. We had already had a demonstration of showing us how we could make a paratepee with a parachute or we could make a lean-to or any sort of shelter that you could imagine and we all had mountain sleeping bags, thus being pretty well equipped. When we arrived in Saylor Park I think we had about 18 inches of snow that night so we really learned how to make camp when it was darn cold. I think the fellows did a pretty fair job. Of course, we didn't sleep too warm that night but I think we learned something and Chuck became the expert fire man. He made a fire with one match in the snow storm and I thought that was pretty good. We had C-3 rations while we were in camp. The first day we built our shelters and just organized the camp. Then the second day we came around and critiqued the camp and we improved the shelters, tried to make them as best we could. It seems as though using a parachute that this paratepee was a darn good shelter; the parachute was fairly waterproof and it was very warm. It was the warmest shelter that could be desired. There were various ways in which you could set up the paratepee - you could use one single pole and drape it around very nicely or you could use a half dozen poles and make a very nice shelter.

During the camp we made our own fires and cooked our own food. We had lectures on mountain climbing and use of ropes; we had lectures on trapping game and the proper place to place snares or traps. We had lectures on hunting, fishing and snaring wild animals, using gill nets and the usual regular fieldcraft lectures.

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They stressed trail discipline as much as possible - trail discipline with a group is a very important thing. There has to be one person who is boss, doesn't matter who it is (of course, it should be the best man) but the usual procedure is to take the ranking person present who becomes the crew commander, and he is the boss of the crew. That's the way it should be. There should be one person who is recognized by one group as the crew commander, and they should stress trail discipline (and they did and we got along very nicely). After the four or five days in Saylor Park we went out on a survival problem ourselves, the E & E problem. We were taken up by truck to a simulated bail-out point and each crew was separated there, you see, and scattered at half-mile intervals (roughly half mile intervals). Each crew had its complete equipment, rations, sleeping bag, parachute, etc. There were three or four maps with each crew and three or four compasses. Each crew was rather large; there were nineteen men in our crew and that made individual experience a little difficult because we didn't get much individual training. The crew commander himself really got a workout, he learned quite a bit but the other fellows didn't learn too much as far as land navigation or anything like that was concerned. At any rate we were taken up to this bail-out point and given a map location of a check-in station where we were to report in within three or four days. There was a 48-hour period in which we had to report in by radio for instructions as to where to go to be picked up. The trek itself lasted from Monday afternoon to Saturday morning. We were picked up on Saturday morning - bailed out on Monday afternoon - and

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during this time we had to be careful on this cross-country trek through wooded areas (it was quite hilly) and we had to be quite careful as to the route. There was an Infantry outfit up there patrolling the area and they were to pick up any persons whom they found around. Of course, they didn't pick you up and take you prisoner but they just picked you up and found out what crew you belonged to and let you continue on your way. They did stress the E&E part of it pretty thoroughly. Our crew never saw any Infantry, they saw three or four other crews, but we didn't see any Infantry fellows at all.

We went around to the flank and around to the rear of the place where we were to check in and pitched a camp and stayed and camped about a day and a half. We stayed in camp and fished. The fishing was pretty good; Dave was the best fisherman in the bunch I think. (Voice in audience - The only one that got up in time!) That's right-- the only one that got up early enough. We didn't have it too difficult on the cross-country trek. One of the weaknesses, I felt, was the fact that there was very little mentioned in methods of putting out patrols and cross-country marches and the fact that although we were shown a movie on camouflage there was no instruction on camouflage whatsoever. When we pitched camp at this spot where we stayed for a day and a half it was a solid mass of white paratepees. When the Air Reconnaissance came over the area looking for us it was pretty obvious that someone was down below. I seriously doubt that anyone got away undetected as far as that was concerned. The white parachute wouldn't have been too difficult to camouflage, and I think some training along these lines should have been given. We ate pretty good and we really enjoyed it.

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The way I felt myself--I had a little bit of experience in living in the field and I felt it had a few shortcomings such as living off the land for example. Up in the woods there were quite a few wild onions, there were dandelions everywhere, and if you are going to live off the land you might as well learn what you can eat because sometime it might come around where such experience will be worth while. There was no mention made of the fact that dandelion greens are just as good as spinach or that wild onions are good to eat and they are pretty easily detected. I think they could have thrown together a meal from the things they had found there in the field and at least shown there are many things that grew around the area that they could have lived on. There was some game--we saw some rabbits and squirrels, we saw a deer track, and, of course, there were fish. One of the sergeants was pretty handy with the sling shot. He got a squirrel with a sling shot, which is pretty good but I think they could have shown the fellows as far as the vegetable matter around, that there were several things that they could have lived on. Even to let them get a taste of it and see if it was alright and didn't taste too bad. Then they would have remembered it whereas this way they left the camp still not knowing what a wild onion was or that dandelion greens are good to eat. After we got through to the pick-up point we were picked up and taken back to the mess area of Camp Carson and there were given a demonstration of air evacuation by use of the SA-16 airplane which they are using at the moment for air rescue missions. It was a jet-assisted take-off--it was very good. They were just showing the Air Forces what they could do when they came in to pick them up and I think it was a very good demonstration. I think that's about all I'll go into right now and

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let the other fellows pick up as they come along.

Do any of you have any questions right now?

Yes. How small should these groups be for good individual training?

I think that for training purposes they should be no larger than five. I would prefer to have them down to perhaps three-men groups if they could do it because under actual field conditions I suspect that they would be three-men groups. That was pretty generally agreed upon - that under field conditions where you were really trying to get out you probably would have perhaps a three-man group. I think three men might be better than two men under field conditions and for training purposes I would say no larger than five men. A guy sort of has to really know how to use a compass, to know what a mile amounts to on the ground in hilly country, and woods, on flat land, and so on, where he can really get out and learn something.

Did you have an opportunity to select landing sites and report back?

Yes, I didn't mention it - during the E&E part of the problem the crew commander was to select a landing site which would meet the requirements of SA-16. This would be selected, marked, and reported back. They were to land helicopters on these sites and evaluate them on the ground. Unfortunately they didn't have the helicopters available right then and our particular group didn't find any suitable landing site.

(One of audience speaks but cannot be transcribed - not clear.

Question is on subject: Camouflage parachute problem.

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The camouflage problem?

Yes sir.

Would you repeat the question please?

Surely. The question was about a pre-camouflage parachute helping to solve the camouflage problem. I don't know really. A camouflage parachute I'm sure is of some value for camouflage but still it's shiny for one thing. I think you'd probably have to dull the surface of it and so on but it would definitely be much better than a white parachute. It definitely would be.

How long did it take you to get the paratepee set up to use?

Well, I would say two or three fellows could have it up and ready to use in half an hour.

Camouflage would be better, wouldn't it?

It wouldn't hurt to knock it down and ditch it or something and there were a lot of evergreens. I think they could at least have cut some brush and put around the paratepee. We talked about it, we were going to do it but the rest of the fourteen guys said, "Oh well, they're supposed to quit after five o'clock at night", and so we just let it go at that. That was all there was to it.

(Question of food arose)

The food which we had on the five-day trek was again a C-3 ration for this particular problem. We were each given about 5 rations. Five complete rations and you could take as much or as little or it as you wished. Most of us cut that pack down quite a little bit because the rations themselves weighed ten or twelve pounds and it adds up in a day's walk. A little later they will have a new ration designed which

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they will use in later classes--I think it will be much better. It will be lighter and it will make the fellows feel more like they're surviving too.

I don't think you'll ever have that type food out there because it's supposed to be for evaluation purposes more than for use by the Air Force.

I see. They're really going to be disappointed if they don't have it because they're planning on it.

What other equipment did you have with you?

We had three compasses, each person had a sheath knife, we had a mountain sleeping bag each, each person had a poncho, half a parachute, two shroud lines, wax coated matches, that's about all besides the rations.

Were there rifles issued to you?

There was no rifle issued, no. No groups had any firearms of any sort.

What was the purpose for not issuing firearms?

Well, not issuing firearms was because there were so many fellows going through the course--one hundred and fifty fellows--and the thought is that a hundred and fifty persons going through every three weeks they'd shoot the country's game in a hurry. I think that's the reason for it.

Did you fire the Hornet Rifle?

We did fire the Hornet Rifle. What was your opinion of it? Thought it was a very good rifle. Especially for the purpose for which it was designed. It's a good gun.

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Did any of the students get an opportunity to go on a hunt?

Not in that particular class. What they had originally intended was for two students from each group go out and try to get a deer or something such as that to just have a taste of venison because many of the fellows had never eaten deer. Also we were to have demonstrated the skinning of animals and preparing food and so on. Two students from each group originally were supposed to go hunting but General Le May was there at the time and Gen. Le May took care of it and we didn't have to worry about it at all. We did have venison though.

Larry, did you have any medical supplies?

As to medical supplies each Air Crew was issued survival medical kits. It wasn't the complete Sac's survival kit. The things in it like morphine or such were left out but each crew did have a medical kit with them and there was an ambulance which could be contacted. It might have taken a little while but you could get hold of them, medical also.

When you started on this problem did you know exactly where you were or did you have to find that out?

When we started on the problem we didn't know exactly where we were. We knew roughly where we were but our particular unit bailed out off the map and we spent the first day and a half getting back on the map. We knew roughly where we were and we knew where we were going but as far as the map was concerned it didn't help too much except to point out landmarks which you could see.

Larry, was there any such thing as a Rat line with people that you might be able to contact?

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As to a simulated Rat line, in a sense there was. I mentioned a check-in point, this check-in point was assumed to be a safe-house with a sterile area of about a half mile around the safe-house itself. Thus in a sense there was a Rat line, yes.

But you knew about the safe-house?

Yes. We were given a lecture on safe-houses and escape routes and such as that but they are playing it a little cozy this time. They want to protect anybody who is on the ground so I doubt if they would give them too much information as to where a safe-house was or whom to contact out there. They way they put it was if you were shot down someone would get in touch with you instead of you getting in touch with someone else.

Before I forget it, on Escape and Evasion end of it, as [REDACTED] 25X1A9a  
[REDACTED] told you, the class before ours was a trial class which was made  
up of former evadees and Prisoners of War from World War II. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a  
[REDACTED] told us that in this previous class those who were successful in  
evading in the problem were those who had been successful evaders during  
World War II and that those who were picked up were the guys who had been  
POW's during World War II so it sort of hit us that they still ran true  
to form. Are there any more questions?

Did you carry canteens?

Yes, we did carry canteens and we had halazone tablets with us on the trip. Question?

Were you radioed at the safe-house?

We were not. The reason that each crew did not have a radio was because radios were not available at that time. In the later classes

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each crew will have a radio and they will be in radio communications, yes.

25X1A9a

Larry, how would they know how to get communications in the safe-house?

Well, as to how to know when to get into communications and such probably would come into the crew briefing before they took off on a flight and at that time would be given instructions I presume. If you were shot down you would come on the air on such and such a frequency between certain hours and give your authentication and tell the circumstances and receive further instructions at that time. It would come under your briefing.

If it were to be a 3000 mile flight I should think that would be an insufficient briefing because you would have to turn the frequency in every area you go.

I think that will be taken care of. Actually I don't know but on these particular radios which are used the frequency is set by crystal, you see, and that determines the frequency. Say where you only have two or three crystals in your pocket that's all you have and your briefing would tell you when and where to use such and such a crystal. Well, that's the only crystal you have. We used the TR-1 in China and I think we had ranges up to about 1200 miles, is that right Colonel, or more?

Depends on the meteorological position, very hard thing to say, sometimes you can't even get fifty miles.

We did have pretty fair range on ours, I think it was about a thousand or twelve hundred miles.

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Do they figure on using that stuff, TR-1?

In the school? They probably will use the TR-1's. It's pretty heavy but I think they will use it.

They won't be able to transport that heavy set, they'll have to have something ...

No sir, the crew's going to carry it.

They can't carry it.

They're going to carry it.

They are?

Yes sir. They are heavy but ...

Are there any other questions? Well, Dave, I guess you can take over.

25X1A9a

Thanks, Larry. [REDACTED] will you now take over. One thing that might fill in a gap in there is that the real lack of equipment was due to the fact that the survival kits that these people should have are under development and not available yet but as I understand it each parachute will have a rather complete kit which will include your matches, tablets and fish nets, snares, etc., plus the little 22 Hornet Rifle. That kit unfortunately hasn't been developed and they don't have it out yet.

25X1A9a

[REDACTED] Larry just about covered everything that there was to be covered. However, I could evaluate the program from my standpoint and say that I don't think it's worth while for our people. (I've said that in writing.) As a survival course for air crew members, I think it's a wonderful job; in two weeks they give them more than seems possible especially for these boys from Brooklyn and so on that have never been outside before. I don't remember a thing at all being said about escape although that's in the

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title of the school - Survival, Escape and Evasion. It wasn't touched on once to my knowledge. Evasion, as they said themselves, is about five percent of the school and the other ninety-five percent is survival.

Now, the air end of it is what I was particularly interested in. The SA-16 built by Grumman which right now has air rescue approval is the machine for use in the pick-up phase. I was disappointed in the JATO take-off and I talked to the Air Rescue people there from the Squadron which is based at Denver and handles these demonstrations. They're planning to boost the jet power on those things, I understand, with four thousand pound bottles instead of one thousand pound or something like that. The JATO take-off got the airplane off the ground about ten feet high and it stayed ten feet high for about ten miles which isn't a very fast rate of climb. It seemed that way, it wasn't quite that drastic. Normal loads they picked up a crew of four, they probably were not carrying a maximum gas load or anything like that and the altitude at take-off was about 6500 feet above sea level I imagine. It was such that it wouldn't climb too rapidly on the take-off and probably it would perform much better at altitudes at which it might be called upon to operate under actual rescue conditions; but they're not too happy. I understand one of the engines was lost on one of those planes and the chap had to set it down in the middle of the road up in that area.

25X1A9a

Well, they realize that the present take-off is inadequate and they are trying to modify it.

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As Larry mentioned there was no crew that (I think, Larry, that this is true of the other crews - I may be wrong) picked out an emergency landing field. The area was not suited for that; the only



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comparatively level spots were these small valleys which were all more or less tundra, saturated land which are not much good for anything to land on. I have nothing to add to what Larry had to say. If anyone has any questions we'll try to get in them.

25X1A9a [REDACTED] Get back to this airplane. What did you think of the ground clearance on it for a rescue? Did you notice that?

The carriage and the clearance between the bottom and the ground, it's not much because it's got that funny unfolding kind of landing gear anyway that looks like it might jam up. I guess it's perfectly o.k. or else Grumman wouldn't be building them that way but I'm not an expert in those matters at all.

25X1A9a [REDACTED] Well, it might be interesting to you people to know that when I was out there last fall or last winter [REDACTED] was present. He commanded the Air Rescue Squadron up in Alaska and he has none of the SR-16's; mainly because of the ground clearance; it has only about 6 inches yet the Grumman people and the Air Rescue people just across the street here are sold on this particular machine. They say that you can run it around with a flat tire. I personally can't see how you can do it - it seems to me that if one tire went flat it would belly up.

25X1A9a

Where, not on a runway.

Well, I'm no expert in airplanes but I was with [REDACTED] when he appraised it and he certainly wasn't fond of it at all.

25X1A9a

Well, he doesn't like anything without skis on it...

Well, no, no.

What does he usually use in the Arctic?

He's using what he can get.

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Mostly C-47's, C-125's, and so on.

He's not primarily interested in skis, he operates 12 months out of the year.

Well, the airplane, as Air Rescue says, is a stop gap airplane and it's best to have right now considering everything. It's got a very respectable radius of action, decent pay load, good landing and take-off characteristics and it is not triphibious but is is amphibious. I think the best thing the school is doing for the Strategic Air Command of the Joint Chiefs of Staffs is raising the morale of those SAC crews who have a very dim prospect of being the first people in any future war to become casualties or potential POW's. It does give them a feeling that in this vast mysterious Eurasian continent there is a chance for them to get out. I was impressed in the lecture room by almost feeling the morale come up during these lectures. I think the other boys will agree with that; they got very interested, very excited. As a matter of fact, some of the instructions and the method of presentation of the SAC school in the lecture hall was good enough to almost make it seem like "well, here's about a five million dollar airplane but to hell with it if I choose these survival kits because it's so much fun to bail out of the airplane and let it go." They do almost make it seem that possible. That's all I have, [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

25X1A9a

[REDACTED] O.K. and thank you very much. Jack, will you take over and contribute your part?

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Well, there's not too much to add except a few general comments. The whole emphasis of the school and the evasion aspect is that the crew will be picked up and they're not going to be just left there for an indefinite period of time. The course should contribute greatly to the chances of SAC crew members successfully surviving. The equipment is very good I think and has wonderful possibilities if it is used with a degree of efficiency at all. They have thought of almost everything. One other item, there was a question on a Hornet Rifle. The exact training program they had was not too good as it was given to us. They gave a lecture on the rifle which is a wonderful weapon for its purposes but they did not let the individual students handle the weapon at the time they were lecturing on it - they did not let them take it apart to see how it works. Then, on the range that day we fired ten rounds at a hundred yards, I believe it was, at a small bulls-eye target. Then they had a small game target at which twenty rounds were to be fired, which we completed but the last part of firing range was not completed because of the weather. It was very windy that day and the guns were all light and they were firing a good bit off. You could tell by your targets that they were definitely being effected and we did not get to fire the last target at two hundred yards to see what the gun would do at that. They do not recommend that they use those over a hundred yards. Their emphasis in the school on this evasion aspect has been changed from the last war in that when you meet an underground group in the briefing procedure they do not tell them any more than absolutely necessary and they emphasize the fact to the people that if they are picked up by underground groups that they ask no questions, that they do exactly as they're told. They stress that a good bit, they seem to be security conscious in this aspect.

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That's about all I have at this time.

25X1A9a

[REDACTED] will you sound off now.

25X1A9a

O.K. Well, lots of the things that I was going to say have already been covered by [REDACTED] I was going to make a few comments about cover, would like to make one or two comments about cover very briefly. The covers were thin, might go over right sometimes, again they might not so I don't think they're adequate. I'll just relate a personal experience to point that out. Point number 1 - that I was from the [REDACTED] a civilian employee, and I think that was about it. The first time I came in a Captain introduced himself and said, "Where are you from?"

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25X1C4a

"I'm from [REDACTED]"

"That's swell - what are you with out there?"

25X1C4a

"I'm with the [REDACTED]"

25X1C4a

"That's fine - I've been at [REDACTED] two years. Where've you been?"

I said, "I've never been there." Well, no harm was done there. I got out of it alright but to cover that thing is right dangerous I think.

I'd like to just mention some points that were mentioned by Larry. I think it is valuable to send some of our people out there - certain types of our people. Anybody that has had Infantry training wouldn't gain too much out of it, I think. Others would gain something, particularly on the trek moving people across country and ground navigation. Anyone that's had experience in Infantry would find things that should have been taught that weren't. We found a couple of occasions where we thought things should have been pointed out and weren't. Just one example: we were moving along the road in a column of sixteen people, somebody called a break, we crossed

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over the road to muddy ground (and there were footprints left - anybody could have counted there were 16 in the group) but it wasn't found. But as I say, it's a valuable course. When we first started on our trek the leader at the head with sixteen or so was traveling through dry woods; twigs made a lot of noise, if there were anyone around they could hear you. Well, he proceeded to break off a lot of the twigs to make it easier for the rest of the people to come through. Somebody told him about that, that he made a lot of noise so he stopped it but I think it is a good idea to send our people out there to know that they will do things like that if you don't tell them or if you don't watch them. The groups were again too large I think, it would have been a better idea to split them up into small groups, they would have learned more. I won't say anymore about that. One point I would like to mention is that course assumed that you had a lot of gear with you. They assumed that when they got their man on the ground he had a parachute and he had the SAC survival kit. It has been mentioned that we didn't have that kit because it is still in the process of development but we had quite a bit of gear with us. We had a knife, compass, rations (all the rations you needed - in fact, you had so much it was too heavy), no problem in survival so far as food went. I suppose we're being practical to send two men out with a knife and a compass and in a week or so to live off the land. I wouldn't want to do it but I think it should be kept in mind that these men are taught to survive with a lot of gear and if they don't have it they might run into trouble. One or two comments about this weapon, the Hornet Rifle, a very good weapon for its purpose but I'd rather have some other kind of weapon, one that's heavier, one that's longer. It's too short, feels too short, I tried to fire it offhand, kneeling,

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sitting and I found it uncomfortable in any position except prone. There just wasn't enough of it. At a hundred yards braced against something you could clip any one of these targets they put up. Clean weapon - very good. That's about all I have right now. I had a couple other things to say but they're all covered. Any questions? Good enough!

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will you take over, please?

The only question that I feel could stand a little covering is that of the value of this course to our people. It has already been covered by two of the people who have been up here. I think perhaps there are many of us who are more interested in that question than any other and it seems to me that it depends entirely on what type of activity our people are engaged in and I think that there would be a good many of our people who would find this course extremely valuable. I, for example, though I had four years of service never did have any Infantry training and that particular phase of it was most interesting to me and I think will be helpful to me in the type of planning that I will be engaged in. I think that if the person has had a sufficient amount of Infantry training, Ground Forces training or field life of one sort or another the whole last week of the course can be written off but that still leaves us with the first week of the course, half of which is in Saylor Park, half of which is in Camp Carson and I would say that over that first week about half of the time is spent in familiarization with survival equipment and about half of the time in theoretical discussions about problems of escape, evasion, and survival. I think that any of our personnel that are going to do planning along that line should get that. That splits the course halfway in two. I spoke to [REDACTED] the last day of the course as to how it would be if

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some of our personnel were to be sent out and were to be given a reduced

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course. There's a course of only one week and he said that could be arranged. At that time I was thinking primarily of those people who perhaps would not be able physically to stand up under this arduous field life that we went through and it was for that reason that he answered as he did but I still feel that that reduced course would be extremely valuable to anyone who had had sufficient amount of field training and did not have the knowledge of survival equipment and the theoretical knowledge that was necessary. Of course, that brings up another point. Couldn't that theoretical knowledge be brought out in the course here? I was extremely well impressed with the quality of the instruction we got right here in Washington before we left and I think that that course perhaps should be considered here. We could blow that course up to a longer period of time and omitting the training out in Camp Carson particularly for people who have had a sufficient amount of field training. This field training I think would be extremely valuable to anyone who doesn't understand the conditions that are faced by men who are out in the field. I think that it makes you considerably more realistic in your attitude towards landing on missions that involve that type of field duty much more so than if you haven't had such experience. That's about the only point that I felt should be covered in addition to that covered by the other men. Are there any questions that I can answer?

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[REDACTED] What about these wooded mountains? Was there anything said about desert countries?

Yes, through our training here in Washington and our training out there the types of terrain that were covered were (a) jungle, (b) desert, (c) tundra, that is Arctic regions not in snow conditions, and mountain. I would say the sub-arctic is tundra. That was mainly in the form of

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films. they were very good training films and in addition there were lecturers who had traveled extensively in each one of those areas or had lived under field conditions in each of those areas. I might say that I was impressed both here and in Colorado Springs with the caliber of the instruction. I think it was extremely high and in all cases the instructors were people who had extensive first-hand knowledge of the areas that they were talking about. They were not people who had covered an Army handbook on some area and were talking about it from the purely theoretical point of view. As [REDACTED] pointed out, a good deal of the value of the course consists of bull sessions with the large number of people that had experience superior to that of any of the rest of us.

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Are there any other questions? That's it.

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[REDACTED] Thanks very much. One thing that should be brought up is the fact that this cover proposition is being scrutinized at the moment and I hope that we'll have a solution to it before we get ourselves in hot water. Now, if there are no more questions I believe that this just about winds it up. I want to thank the five guinea pigs for participating and also thank all of you for showing up.

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